

# JONAH

## The Missionary That Just Didn't Get It

### Background:

Jonah was...

- The son of Amittai of Gath-hepher (3 miles NE of Nazareth).
- A Prophet of Israel who exercised his ministry early in the reign of Jereboam II (about 785-745 B.C.) and during (or possibly before) Hosea and Amos.
- Known for two specific experiences:
  - Predicting the restoration of the ancient boundaries (2 Kings 14:25-27) of the kingdom—a testament to God's grace to His own people
  - Preaching repentance to the city of Nineveh—a testament to God's care and concern for the nations

### Jonah's Missionary Experience

- God's Command #1 to Jonah (1:1-2)
- Jonah's Disobedience (1:3)
- God's Chastisement of Jonah (1:4-17)
  - The Storm (1-16)
  - The Great Fish (17)
- Jonah's Repentance (2:1-9)
- God's Mercy on Jonah (2:10)
- God Command #2 to Jonah (3:1-2)
- Jonah's Obedience (3:3-4)
- Nineveh's Repentance (3:5-9)
  - The people repented (5)
  - The king and nobles repented (6-9)
- God's Mercy on Nineveh (3:10)
- Jonah's Angry Complaint to God (4:1-3)
- God's Simple Response (4:4)
- Jonah's Waiting for God's Judgment on Nineveh (4:5)
- God's Lesson to Jonah (4:6-11)
  - The gourd (6)
  - The worm (7)
  - The wind and sun (8)
  - The question (9)
  - The pointed reproof (10)

### Life lessons from the missionary experience of Jonah:

1. Jonah outright disobeyed God's call.
2. Jonah obeyed in action but not in spirit.
3. Jonah, as an object himself of God's compassion, had no true compassion on Ninevites.
4. Jonah experientially enjoyed the mercy of God, but was too selfishly blind to see how that God's mercy could be experienced by the Ninevites.
5. Jonah was more concerned about an object that enhanced his own temporal comfort, than the lives of the Ninevites.

### So What?

- Like Jonah, am I a missionary who just doesn't get it?
- Have I been commissioned by God? Yes! (Matt 28:19-20)
- Do I outright disobey God's call?
- Do I obey in action but not in spirit?
- Do I, as an object of God's compassion, show compassion on the ones I am sent to win?
- Do I experientially enjoy the mercy of God; but am too selfishly blind to see how that God's mercy can be experienced by the morally corrupt ones I have been sent to win?
- Am I more concerned about objects that enhance my own temporal comfort than the lives of the one's I have been called to win?
- Do I get it?